THE URBAN DISTRICT OF KIRKHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

PUBLIC HEALTH, 1968

J. E. MORRIS, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H., D.I.H.
Medical Officer of Health

A. YOUNG, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.
Public Health Inspector and Surveyor

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FOR THE YEAR 1968

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

J. E. Morris, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H., D.I.H., D.C.H.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

E. A. R. Berkley, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., To: 23rd June, 1968

E. J. Hunt, M.B., B.S.(London), D.P.H.(London), From: 24th June, 1968

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

A. Young, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.

DEPUTY SURVEYOR AND ASSISTANT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

M. B. Bamber, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.T.C.S., Dip.H.Eng.

A N N U A L H E A L T H R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1968

To the Chairman and Members of the

Kirkham Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the health of the Urban District for the year 1968. The health of the area remained satisfactory during the year and there were no major outbreaks of infectious illnesses.

My thanks are again due to my colleagues in the health department for their loyalty and assistance. I would also wish to express my appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the encouragement and support offorded to me.

Yours faithfully,

J. E. MORRIS,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	940
Home Population	6,380
(at the 1961 census the population was 4,811. The estimated mid-year home population in 1967 was 6,370)..	
Number of inhabited houses at 31/12/68	1,814
Rateable value at 31/12/68	£197,761
Amount produced by a penny rate	£817

VITAL STATISTICS

Births - 78 live births (52 males and 26 females) were registered during the year. The birth rate of 12.9 per 1,000 compared with a rate of 14.9 per 1,000 in 1967.

Stillbirths - There were two stillbirths during the year making a stillbirth rate of 25 per 1,000 total live and stillbirth compared with a rate of 11.0 in 1967.

The total number of live and stillbirths during the year was 80.

Deaths - 89 deaths (50 males and 39 females) were registered during the year. The death rate of 16.5 per 1,000 compared with a death rate of 15.6 per 1,000 in 1967.

Infantile Mortality - 2 deaths of infants under one year of age occurred compared with 2 in 1967, giving a rate of 26 per 1,000.

The neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) was Nil compared with 22 in 1967.

The early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) was Nil compared with 22 in 1967.

Maternal Mortality (including abortion) - Number of deaths Nil. Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths was Nil.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The table below shows the causes of death of Urban District residents in 1968.

Cause of Death	M.	F.	T.
Pneumonia	1	3	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	6	-	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	1	1
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	2	3	5
Ischaemic Heart Disease	8	5	13
Other Heart Disease	1	3	4
Other Circulatory Disease	2	4	6
Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	-	4
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	4	2	6
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	1
All other Accidents	1	3	4
Congenital Anomalies	2	-	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Diabetes Mellitus	-	2	2
Other Endocrine Diseases	1	-	1
Anaemias	1	-	1
Miningitis	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System	1	-	1
Hypertensive Disease	2	-	2
Cerebrovasculor Disease	7	9	16
Asthma	-	1	1
Intestinal obstruction and Hernia	-	1	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	1	2
Suicide	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1	2
	50	39	89

The table below shows the comparisions between birth and death rates in England and Wales and this district for the past five years:

	England & Wales		Kirkham Urban District	
	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths
Year				
1964	18.4	11.3	19.4	17.4
1965	18.1	11.5	19.8	12.1
1966	17.7	11.7	19.3	13.7
1967	17.2	11.2	14.9	15.6
1968	16.9	11.9	12.2	16.5

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Personnel:-

Medical Officer of Health:

J. E. MORRIS, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H., D.I.H., D.C.H.

Other appointments held: Medical Officer of Health, Boroughs of Lytham St. Annes and Fleetwood, Urban Districts of Poulton-le-Fylde, Preesall and Thornton Cleveleys, and Fylde Rural District, Divisional Medical Officer of Health, Health Division No. 3, Lancashire County Council.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

E. A. R. BERKLEY, M.R.C.S, L.R.C.P., TO: 23RD JUNE, 1968

E. J. HUNT, M.B., B.S.(LONDON), D.P.H.(LONDON), FROM: 24TH JUNE, 1968

Public Health Inspector:

A. YOUNG, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.,

Other appointments held: Surveyor, Building Inspector and Housing Manager with Kirkham U.D.C.

Assistant Public Health Inspector:

M. B. BAMBER, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.T.C.S., Dip.H.Eng.

Hospital Facilities - For general cases the main hospitals used are the Preston Royal Infirmary of the Preston and Chorley Hospital Management Committee and the Blackpool Victoria, Wesham Park and Lytham St. Annes Hospitals of the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee. Infectious diseases cases are admitted to the Devonshire Road Hospital, Blackpool excepting in the cases of Tuberculosis and Smallpox. Main provision for cases of Tuberculosis is at Elswick Sanatorium. Accommodation for Smallpox is provided by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board at the Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital, near Bury.

Ambulance Facilities - The Ambulance Service is administered by the Lancashire County Council. The needs of the district are met by vehicles operating through the County's radio scheme.

Laboratory Facilities - Bacteriological examinations of specimens are carried out in the Public Health Laboratories attached to Preston Royal Infirmary.

Professional Nursing in the Home - General nursing cases and confinements are attended by District Nurses and Midwives of the Lancashire County Council.

School Medical and Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics - A County Council Clinic is located in Moor Street and sessions held at the time of preparation of this report, are as follows:-

Monday, a.m. and p.m. - Dental Clinic.

Monday, p.m. - Audiometric (one a month) approximately.

Tuesday, a.m. - Chiropody for Schools (Alternate Tuesday 9-10)

Tuesday, a.m. - Speech Therapy.

Tuesday, p.m. - Relaxation Classes (Ante Natal).

Wednesday, a.m. and p.m. - Chiropody.

Wednesday, a.m. and p.m. - Dental Clinic.

Wednesday, p.m. - Cytology (Cervical Smear Test) (Every 3rd Week).

Thursday, a.m. - Additional Clincs as required.

Thursday, p.m. - Immunisations (Excluding Smallpox).

Thursday, p.m. - Smallpox Vacination (Second Thursday in each month).

Thursday, p.m. - Child Welfare Clinic.

Friday, p.m. - Ante Natal (alternate Fridays).

Friday, a.m. and p.m. - Dental Clinic.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of diseases other than tuberculosis notified during the year 1968.

Diseases	Total Cases at all ages	Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 and over	Age unknown	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	2			1			1							
Whooping Cough	1					1								
Acute Poliomyelitis:- Paralytic														
" Non-Paralytic														
Measles (excluding Rubella)	138	9	9	16	25	20	57		1	1				
Diphtheria														
Dysentery	1									1				
Meningococcal Infection														
Ophthalmia Neonatorum														
Acute Pneumonia (Prim. and Infl.)	2				1					1				
Smallpox														
Acute Encephalitis - Infective														
" Post-Infectious														
Enteric or Typhoid Fever														
Paratyphoid Fevers														
Erysipelas														
Food Poisoning														
Puerperal Pyrexia														
Other Notifiable Diseases														
TOTAL	144	9	9	17	26	21	58	-	1	3	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

A tuberculosis service is provided in its various aspects by the Regional Hospital Board, the Lancashire County Council and District Councils. The Hospital Board is responsible mainly for treatment, the County Council for prevention, care and after care, and the Sanitary Authority also for prevention. A Tuberculosis Health Visitor is provided by the Lancashire County Council and the Hospital and Chest Committee.

In 1968 there were no new cases notified and no deaths reported from the disease.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee,
Kirkham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the annual report for my first full year of service with the Kirkham Urban District Council.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE OF THE DISTRICT

Sewers and Sewerage System - The sewage, in conjunction with that from Wesham, runs into tanks at Newton and then into the River Ribble. The sewage disposal works consists of two detritus tanks, six settling tanks and fourteen sludge beds. These were constructed in 1941.

The responsibility for the main sewer and sewage works is held by the Kirkham and Wesham Joint Sewerage Committee.

Forty new houses were connected to the sewerage system during the year.

The district is generally sewered on a combined system but the majority of the later postwar development has been on a separate system and it is planned that in areas now being redeveloped provision will be made for these to be separately sewered when suitable outfall sewers are constructed.

The Council has authorised a full ivestigation of the present sewerage system with a view to the provision of surface water sewers and the replacement of inadequate foul sewers.

An old town such as Kirkham where the water bourne disposal system has been in operation for many years must eventually be faced with the expense of replacing inadequate systems, especially when modern development feeds into the main sewers. The water consumption per head in the areas of older property increased due to the introduction of the modern amenities of baths, internal W.C.'s and washing machines. This together with the increase in paved areas increasing the surface water run off particularly into the combined sewers must cause the premature operation of the "storm" overflows even under comparatively fine weather conditions.

Flooding again occured on the Milbanke Estate during a period of heavy rain. The flooding caused a partial collapse of the Wrongway Brook Culvert which in turnaggravated the flooding.

Rivers and Streams - Wrongway Brook, Carr Brook, Dow Brook is the main watercourse draining the district. This water course enters the Urban District from the Fylde Rural District and flows in a general north-west - south east direction across the Urban District. Before re-entering the Fylde Rural District a second watercourse rises on the former R.A.F. camp site and flows in a northerly direction along the Orders Lane Culvertuntil it meets Wrongway Brook to form Carr Brook.

Storm water sewage overflows from Kirkham discharge into both these watercourses. Further storm water sewage from Wesham in the Fylde Rural District also discharges into Wrongway Brook within the Urban District. The result is that there is a high degree of pollution in these watercourses and only regular inspection of the overflows can help to reduce the level of pollution pending the provisions of a new joint sewer by Kirkham Urban and Fylde Rural District Concils, a scheme which both councils wish to see carried through to completion as soon as possible.

Water Supply - Water is supplied by the Fylde Water Board and is derived from upland surface sources at Grizedale and Higher Hodder. The water supply is of good quality and is adequate in quanitity. All houses have supplies available from this source and all have piped supplies available within the house, none being supplied by stand pipes. Fluoride is present in the water supply to the extent of 0.1 parts per million.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Complaints - 471 complaints were received during the year many of these being from Council House tenants regarding repairs and defects. 688 visits were made in connection with this work.

Statutory Nuisances discovered numbered 138 of which 135 are abated the remaining 3 being carried forward to next year.

Three statutory notices were served during the year and this involved legal proceedings being taken in one case.

HOUSING IMPORVEMENTS

During the year under review 15 applications for Standard Grants were received and 14 approved and 14 grants totaling £1,542 0s. 0d. were paid.

Although this is an increase of 6 on last year's figures there remains many properties in this town that could well benefit from the provision of Standard Grant amenities.

The problem is national and not merely local. The Council have now taken a lead in this direction with the help of similar government grants and work was carried out during the year for the improvement to full modern standards of 33 pre-war Council Houses in Kirkham. The preparation of a scheme for the improvement of the remaining 21 pre-war houses was also put in hand.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

No caravan sites now exist in the town.

DISINFESTATIONS

Infestations by parasitical vermin has greatly declined since the advent of D.D.T. and higher standards of living. However, there are still houses in the town which require treatment from time to time, these houses often, but not always are inhabited by aged persons. The Council undertake to spray free of charge houses where infestations are discovered. Free issues of D.D.T. powder are available at the Council Offices. Infestations by Ants are not uncommon and often occur in better class properties. A residual lacquer aerosol has proved most effective in some cases.

DISINFECTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Properties were visited in connection with infectious diseases and disinfection carried out where necessary. A vacuum steam sterilizer is available at Devonshire Road Hospital, Blackpool for trearment of affected bedding and clothing.

CLEAN AIR ACT

Smoke nuisances from industrial chimneys occur from time to time in the town although none are considered serious enough to warrant legal action. Very few complaints are received by the Department in this respect but observations are taken on occasions and consultations have taken place with the boilermen and management. Kirkham adds its full quota of pollution from private dwellings to the atmosphere the effluents being much greater in volume than the industrial effluent.

The town is fortunate in being surrounded by a green belt and being somewhat isolated from the great conurbations of Lancashire, thus more effective dispersal and dilution with the atmosphere is achieved; however, "lung level" smoke from domestic dwellings particularly bungalows abounds during the winter months.

FOOD AND DRUGS

All food establishments in the town continue to maintain a standard consistent with the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations by this Department.

One slaughterhouse is in operation in the town and is visited each morning for purposes of meat inspection.

Meat Inspection: All meat for human consumption killed in the town is inspected and stamped with the Council's mark as being fit for human consumption. A charge is made for this service.

Other Foods: The following items of food were inspected, found unfit and surrendered by shopkeepers for destruction.

6 lbs. Corned Beef, 11 lbs. Boiled Ham, 30 lbs. Mutton, 24 lbs. Shoulder Steak.

Carcases inspected and condemned were as follows:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	243	-	-	1,100	604
Number inspected	243	-	-	1,100	604
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	98	-	-	123	96
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	40.3%	-	-	11.2%	15.9%
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	8
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1.3%
Cysticercosis:					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Milk Supply and Distribution -

Dairies in the district 8

Shops in the district other than dairies 5

No complaints were received in regard to the milk supply. Only "specially designated" milk (that is pasteurised, sterilised or Tuberculin tested milk) can now be sold in Kirkham under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) order, 1955, which came into force on the 6th December, 1955.

ICE CREAM

Some 33 premises are registered with the Council for sale and storage of Ice Cream. These have all been inspected and found satisfactory.

MEAT PRODUCTS

Four premises are registered with the Council for the manufacture of made-up meat products. Since ice cream and partly cooked meat products are particularly viable and highly susceptible to contamination these premises require constant supervision and inspection in order to maintain a high standard of hygiene.

Food sampling by the Lancashire County Council.

9 Milk Samples and 19, Samples of other foods as follows:-

1 Lard	1 Fruit, canned
1 Margarine	1 Vegetables, dried
1 Custard Powder	1 Vegetables, canned
1 Semolina	1 Tomatoes, canned
2 Jam	1 White loaf
1 Golden Raising Powder	1 Ground Almonds
1 Dried Apricots	1 Epsom Salts B.P.
1 Dried Sultanas	2 Table Jelly
1 Meat Paste	

All samples were satisfactory with the exception of the undermentioned three samples.

Channel Islands Milk.	Deficient 5% fat	Dairy cautioned and further sample obtained.
White Loaf.	Contained excessive amount of salt (3.4% instead of 1.5%)	Complainant and baker informed.

Epsom Salts B.P.	Contained 1,360 part per million iron B.P. Limit test for iron in Epsom Salts is equivalent to 11.4 parts per million.	Packers communicated with.

HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Council undertake the collection and disposal of household and certain trade refuse in the Area.

Trade refuse from the shops mainly in the form of waste paper and packings is collected weekly on a separate basis.

Disposal of the refuse is by controlled tipping, at Coronation Road Tip. The land is being reclaimed for use as playing fields.

The domestic refuse collection service continues to operate smoothly and efficiently and it is a pleasure to report that members of the Public have seen fit to remark on the regularity and efficiency of this onerous task.

The salvage collection service suffered during the year due to the unreliability of the old refuse vehicle.

The number of men engaged on the work is as follows:-

1 Driver 5 Loaders	Full-time
1 Driver 2 Salvage Collectors 1 Salvage Baler	Part-time

All waste paper is sold under contract to Thames Board Mills Ltd., after being baled at the Council Depot.

The total income from salvage during the year was £704 0s. 4d.

The total tonnage salvaged was as follows:-

	Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.
Waste Paper (all grades)	93	13	-	21
Rags and Metals	-	15	1	-
	93	28	1	21

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT

Three premises are registered under the above Act. The amount of this material used is very small since the advent of latex foams.

No samples were taken during the year.

OFFICES AND SHOPS ACT 1963

All premises coming within the scope of the Offices and Shops Act some 71 in all - were fully inspected during the year and where repairs and improvements were necessary then these were put in hand.

RODENT CONTROL

47 properties including business premises were treated during the year for infestations of Rats and Mice. One workman is employed on a part-time basis as a Rodent Operative and has attended Ministry Courses in modern methods of control.

In general it is found that the sewers in Kirkham are remarkably free from rats and although periodic routine baiting is carried out on sewer lengths the "takes" from these are minimal.

This desirable state of affairs is no doubt brought about by the periodic flooding to which the sewers in Kirkham are subject thus making these "Havens of Refuge" for the rodent population less attractive than is usually the case.

The brooks and tip area, however, require frequent inspection and control.

PETROLEUM ACTS

Fifteen premises are licensed to store petroleum and one to store cellulose. In all cases the storage tanks are situated underground. The total storage capacity is 30,100 gallons.

HOUSING

Number of houses on Rate Books	1,814
Number of new houses erected during year:	
(a) By Local Authority	NIL
(b) By other bodies or persons	40
Number of houses closed or demolished during the year	49
Number of persons displaced	12
Number of discretionary grant applications received during the year	NIL
Number of standard grant applications received during the year	15
Number of standard grants approved during the year	14

FACTORY ACT 1961

There are some 39 Factories registered with the Council. Certain provisions of Act are administered by this Department and in this connection all factories on the Register were inspected during the year.

Notices were served concerning contraventions of the Act and in all cases work was completed or put in hand.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

There are few complaints regarding noise in the town but where this occurs it has always been possible to abate the nuisance informally and without re-course to legal action.

STAFF

I would like to express my thanks to members of the Staff, the Foreman and all Workman, for their excellent and willing co-operation during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. YOUNG.